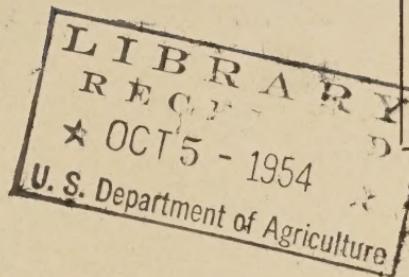


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Island Idyll, or the Peripatetic Plantsman

(Philip E. Chandler, author, lecturer, and E&R salesman, has again this year made his way to and through distant lands (last year: Europe) and has contributed the vivid observations of gardens of the "Paradise of the Pacific" found below.)

One of the most fascinating characteristics of Hawaii is the great variety of both natural and planted landscape. At sea level on the windward sides (north and east) of all the Islands the weather is very warm and wet, the countryside correspondingly lush and brilliantly green. To the opposite exposures along the sea come little rainfall, little cloud; thus the air is drier, the sky and water a brighter blue, the vegetation less lush. Here and there, as on the lee side of Mt. Haleakala occur small deserts of Cacti, Agave, and considerable dust. Even within the city of Honolulu the moisture varies from two inches on Diamond Head, 15 to 20 inches at Waikiki, 26 inches downtown (the official weather bureau), to 98 inches in parts of Makiki Heights and nearly 200 inches on Tantalus! Furthermore the temperatures drop perceptibly at all hours as one approaches the hills and snakes up the long green valleys. These physical variations affect plant materials and allow much greater variety in gardens than in most of the Torrid Zone. The island of Maui particularly runs the gamut from Breadfruit and Mangoes at sea level through Citrus, Avocados and endless Eucalypti at 1500 to 3000 feet; miles of Plum orchards above that; to Pine, scrubby Coroprosma and Silver Swords above 8000 feet.

Sea level gardens and those only slightly higher back against the wet green Pali (cliff) in Honolulu display the usual tropical wealth of exotic trees and shrubs most visitors associate with Hawaii in general, the incomparable structure of the Monkey Pod (Samanea sa-

(Continued on inside page)

Come Fill the Cup

Housebroken

As a suggested departure from the cliches among indoor plants we would like to bring to your attention the Bromeliads, South American relatives of the commercial pineapple plant. The species and hybrids which we currently have on display are not only among the finest of the entire family but are singularly fool-proof house plants as well.

Only within the last year or two have the Bromeliads received a measure of long deserved attention from the national publications concerned in one way or another with indoor living. One of the best and most fascinating of all exhibits in the International Flower Show at Hollywood Park last Spring was a display of locally grown Bromeliads. Visitors at the



Jules Padilla Photo

show will recall the striking beauty of the most unusual flowers of certain varieties competing for decorative honors with the sometimes brilliant and bizarrely patterned foliage of other types.

In general the form of the Bromeliad may be described as a sort of cup or pitcher created by stiff, tightly clasping leaves radiating and recurring outward in a symmetrical sunburst pattern. The central cup or pitcher is intended by nature as a water reservoir and accounts in large part for the plant's ability to survive widely varying indoor conditions without complaint. The exotic flowers which may be pink,

(Continued on inside page)

Island Idyll . . .

(Continued from front page)

man); Plumeria in profusion from the dark red of *acutifolia* hybrids through rose, pink, and pale yellow, to the finest of all the whites, the Singapore Plumeria; Ylang-Ylang (*Cananga odorata*) with the unbelievable perfume of its pale green and cream blossoms; the flame of Royal Poinciana (*Delonix regia*); the pink, yellow, cream, apricot and rose of the various Shower Trees (*Cassia* species and hybrids); the gargantuan banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*, *F. benjamina*, and *F. retusa*), and so on for pages, some winter-flowering or fruiting, some summer, fall and spring. Always the skyline and shrubbery border are gay with color. But as in subtropical climates it is easy to become surfeited with color — particularly with the gaudy Ti (*Cordyline rubra*), the endless mottled and spotted Crotons (*Codiaeum*), and the long stretches of beefsteak hedge (*Acalypha wilkesiana*).

There are many beautiful gardens, and as everywhere some horrid ones. It takes more knowledge and finesse to use large-scaled patterns and great banks of strong-colored blossoms in small gardens than it does to use less bold subject material. In the Islands as on the mainland the most beautiful homes are landscaped by professional designers who have created and followed a plan. And there even more than here does one appreciate the masterpiece of understatement — say ONE well-branched multicolored Croton in a simple unglazed pot off center in a patio of green-leaved tropicals, gray and red gravel and Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon Jaburan*).

A new hotel in Waikiki, the Breakers, on Beachwalk, possesses such a garden. This is an all-green planting mostly *Monstera deliciosa*, dwarf clumping palms, a couple of well-placed *Dracaena marginata*, Mondo grass and lava flag. And of course the towering coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*). All are adaptable to Los Angeles except unfortunately the coconuts, for which we would have to substitute *Washingtonia robusta* for the tall verticals. The building is taupe in color with the slightest detail of lacquer red, all in the simplest contemporary Chinese. And in the rather small shadow-spattered patio around which the hostelry is situated there is ONE flowering plant, a great twisted Singapore plumeria with its perfumed clusters of dazzling white.

Another masterpiece is the garden of Mrs. Lester Marx in upper Honolulu. This is a great garden—15 acres, with a great house and behind it a 1500 foot green and black lava cliff for a backdrop. Weathered brick walls support a golden canopy of the large-flowered *Allamanda hendersoni* as one approaches from the motor court. Wide-roofed verandas protect the ever-open living quarters from frequent showers. A commodious all-brick courtyard displays walls of mounted orchids, especially *Phalaenopsis* hybrids, massed in a sheltered niche opposite a picture window. The rear of the house is flanked with an ample terrace which commands a scene which defies description—over a rushing stream to a steep kelly-green

It's Time For . . .

Cleaning up expended beds and borders, taking advantage of the cleared ground to do some good deep spading and generally improving the soil in preparation for fall planting which should be made now for winter and spring blooms.

Chrysanthemums will be putting on their show soon. Continue to water freely and use liquid fertilizers once a week. When the buds show color stop fertilizing but continue to water freely.

Roses call for special attention. The hot spells have in most cases caused the bushes to look somewhat tired. A light pruning now is indicated for such plants followed up by generous watering and feeding.

Watch your large **specimen trees**. Here and there one can pick out trees which obviously are suffering from insufficient water. The leaves take on a wilted appearance and there will perhaps be untimely leaf drop. In such cases there is need of deep watering, and one of the best ways to insure this is lay a hose around the tree and let the water just dribble for hours at a time in one spot, moving it as required by the tree's dimensions.

The old standbys for present planting are again available in flats—**Pansies**, **Violas**, winter **Stock**, **Snapdragons**, **Iceland Poppies**, **Calendula** and **Nemesia** for sunny locations, and for shade there will be **Cinerarias** and **Primulas** in variety. While these are old favorites which we have offered for many years, they are being improved continually — better colors, longer blooming qualities and better performance generally.

Our bulb catalog has already been mailed

meadow studded with natural outcroppings of blackest lava to virgin rain forest at the foot of the black rock cliffs streaked with lushest lichens and hugged with green lianas. On either side of this tropical meadow are assembled in natural groves one of the most remarkable collections of ornamental plants in America, all so naturally grouped and obviously at peace with their surroundings that they might all have been born there. There is a crooked path through a small forest of orange-cane 50-foot Bamboo where one strolls in reverence, alone with awe and scented silence. As far as one can see stretch the vertical orange-gold boles broken by green horizontals of bright green leaves; the path is a soundless tan mat of spent foliage, the sky higher than sight beyond the vaulting arches. Beyond the Bamboo grove one drifts into new wonders of color and form -- tree *Medinilla magnifica* dripping foot-long panicles of glowing pink bracts into a bank cover of electric blue *Dichorisandra* and white *Crinum* hybrids. One terrace features plants with wine-colored accent -- *Allamanda violacea*, a scented bower of *Quisqualis indica*, seedpods of *Bauhinia corymbosa*, a giant lipstick plant (*Ochrosia elliptica*). Yet for all the assemblage of botanicals, the exquisite collector's items, the garden has great simplicity with emphasis on the drama of the natural setting, and it is thereby one of the really great gardens of the world.

One other among numerous masterpieces of

Autumn Action

out and will be in your hands and also a folder on "Bulb Culture." As usual our Dutch importations of **Tulips** and **Hyacinths** are "tops" both in size and quality and carefully selected as to variety for local conditions. With regard to **Daffodils**, we offer some 15 varieties and suggest that you plant a number of them rather than all one type. By doing this you will find that the flowering period can be greatly extended.

In our October issue, 1952, we urged our clients to try a planting of **Muscari** and **La-chenalia** for a blue and yellow combination. We received gratifying reports. If you have not already done so, try it this season. They are both great performers, long flowering and increase surprisingly.

Lilies are not included in our catalog, but we will have the following: **auratum**, **Regal**, **rubrum**, **tigrinum**, **Henryi**, **giganteum**, **Belling-ton Hybrids**, **Olympic Hybrids** and **Mid-Century**. We suggest that if you are planning on any of these that you place your order so that we may fill it immediately upon arrival of the stock. It is important that you plant these while they are fresh and firm.

Now is a good time to plant that **Lemon**, **Orange**, **Tangerine** or **Lime**. We have particularly fine stock at \$5.50 each. **Avocados** too, in varieties that will provide fruit, year round, Priced \$7.50 each.

Among recent arrivals at the nursery is a vivid **scarlet Verbena** from Peru, a true perennial, which spreads rapidly, clinging close to the ground with no sign of the mildew which so often attacks Verbenas. It has great promise, and will probably give the old ground covers keen competition. This new Verbena is offered at \$1 each in one gallon cans.

At the nursery we have colored, life-like illustrations of the fabulously beautiful **Reticulata hybrid Camellias**. Our salesmen will be pleased to show you these, and tell you of a very special offer the firm is making to our clients in this connection. K.B.

Hawaiian homes is a very small all-rock garden on the dry side of Kauai, near Poipu Beach. Conceived for low maintainence on a wind-swept mesa of black lava, this gem of out-door living is a sophisticated study in red and gray succulents and driftwood, with a sand-and-pebble dry stream of the highest tradition and beauty, a staggered wind baffle of lichen-covered lava walls, drifts of golden-green Scaevola, hot exposures cooled by the gray-green leaves and blush blossoms of the pink woodrose (*Dipladenia rosea*). The too-curious glances of passersby are foiled by a magnificent screen of our own well-loved Natal plum (*Carissa grandiflora*) always heavy with fruit and blossom, and from anywhere in the garden one looks east across wind-tossed chaparral of koa haole (*Leucaena glauca*) and deep grassy valleys of sugar cane to sharp dark shoulders of the Old Hoary Range. In all other directions lie turquoise ocean broken only by white surf and black lava shoals, or at night in the south the brightest of all constellations—the glittering Southern Cross. P.E.C.

Hugh Evans

Are we at odds with the world and inclined to bewail our outcast state? Do we feel that things are all wrong and getting worse? We can solace ourselves in our gardens. If the garden possesses the priceless boon of privacy and is somewhat remote from the madding crowd, so much the better for us and our peace and contentment, for in the garden we can shake off our perplexities and troubles and "knit up the revell'd sleeve of care."

In our gardens, too, should dwell memories, plants which were bestowed on us by some valued friends, some perhaps passed behind the veil. I could stroll around my old garden when so many of the various plants in it, aside from their intrinsic interest and beauty, had some special interest attached to them. Here perhaps some gay little shrub from West Australia, the sole survivor of many seeds originally sown, and plants sent to me by collectors from all over the world. Over there, some beautiful thing from far away which I had been trying to procure for several years until my efforts finally were crowned with success. Only quite recently I was admiring a particularly fine specimen of an uncommon flowering tree in a large garden and remarking on its beauty, when the owner smiled and remarked, "Well you gave it to me seventeen years ago." I had forgotten, but he had not. This tree will delight passersby after both of us have gone and its original source has been forgotten.

When we sit at peace in our garden and watch those living jewels swooping and darting among the flowers, see the orioles busy about their artistic and curious nests, hear the song of the mocking bird, we should feel at peace. If ever a Divinity does hedge us round it must be in a garden.

"Not God in gardens, when the eve is cool
Nay, but I have a sign

'Tis very sure, God walks in mine."

— Thomas E. Browne

BROMELIADS . . .

(Continued from front page)

blue, red, yellow or green emerge from this central reservoir and in some cases last as long as five or six months. (*Aechmea fasciata*, Grapevine of August, 1951). Apart from keeping the cup of the plant filled the root system should receive some water about once a week with some standard liquid fertilizer added once a month. Any situation affording a reasonably strong light is acceptable. A center piece created by a *Neoregelia Caroliniae* for example offers interior decoration without equal.

Please come in and let us show you in addition. *Aechmea fasciata*, *Aechmea Orlandiana*, *Nidularium Regeliodes*, *Nidularium Innocentii*, *Striata* (illustrated), *Vriesia hybrid Marie* and *Vriesia splendens*. Large plants in four inch pots \$6.50 and \$10. M.E.

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